

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEVITTOWN, NY**

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION was duly called and held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 in the Board Meeting Room of the Levittown Memorial Education Center.

CERTIFICATION:

The District Clerk certified that pursuant to Section 104, Open Meetings Law, notice of meeting was sent to the Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESENT:

Ms. Peggy Marengi, President
Mr. Ed Powers, Vice President – excused absence
Mr. Frank Ward, Secretary (arrived at 6:15 PM)
Mr. James Moran
Mr. Michael Pappas (arrived at 6:10 PM)
Ms. Karen Quinones-Smith
Mr. Kevin Regan

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tonie McDonald - Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan - Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Debbie Rifkin - Assistant Superintendent
Mr. William Pastore – Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen - School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum - District Clerk
Ms. Grace Shin – MacArthur High School Student Liaison
Mr. James Lumetta – Division Avenue High School Alternate Student Liaison

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Ms. Marengi, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:45 PM. On a motion by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Regan and approved (4-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following items: contracts and personnel matters.
- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM at which time Ms. Marengi asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of all our service men and women who are serving at home and abroad.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Marengi was delighted to see a room full of new hires and welcomed them to the Levittown School Family.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2014 (Regular Board Meeting).

NOTE: Mr. Pappas requested corrections which were reflected in the approved minutes.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Karen Quinones-Smith, Trustee
AYES:	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

IV. REPORTS**A. Recognition****1. College Board Honorees**

Alexandra Sorbello - Division Avenue, National Hispanic Scholar
 Krysten Garcia - Division Avenue, National Hispanic Scholar
 Karla Zabala - Division Avenue, National Hispanic Scholar
 Grace Shin - MacArthur, National Merit Commended Student
 Eduardo Sandoval - MacArthur, National Merit Commended Student and National Hispanic Scholar

Ms. Rifkin remarked that it is a great pleasure to honor some of our high school students from Division and MacArthur High Schools. She noted these students are being honored tonight based on their high PSAT scores. The principals from both high schools, Ms. Lorelli and Ms. Valentino, introduced their students and presented them with awards. They mentioned that they are always thrilled when their students get recognized for their scholastic achievements. The parents were also congratulated.

Ms. Rhatigan announced that the new staff members would now be introduced to the Board by their principals. Dr. McDonald stated that we have a tremendous amount of very talented people who are going to be working for Levittown Schools. The Board congratulated and welcomed each of them to the district.

2. Art Display – Abbey Lane School

Dr. McDonald shared that each month the staff at Levittown Memorial will be voting on a piece of artwork to retain from those displayed from the different schools in the Board room and hallway. These exceptional pieces will be framed and kept on display for the year. At the end of the school year, those students whose artwork was exhibited will be honored. Ms. Marengi acknowledged the beautiful art work in the Board Room and hallway from Abbey Lane. She remarked it is always wonderful to see.

3. Recognition/Reception for new employees

Ms. Rhatigan directed everyone to the Panther Room for a reception.

B. Superintendent

1. Comments and Reports

Dr. McDonald commented that it has been a very good month with everything running smoothly. She noted that the Board had asked for a report regarding security overtime. The Board reviewed a confidential document that was handed out. Dr. McDonald instructed the Board to be mindful of questions that should not be asked in public because they may involve the schools' security. Mr. Milano, Director of School Facilities & Operations, was present to discuss his comprehensive presentation on what strategies were being implemented in security now, with several goals in mind. The plan was divided into three categories: deployment and patrol, managing and tracking patrol activity and improvement and refreshment of the security fleet. He further explained each of the areas goals.

The goal of the first area, deployment and patrol, is to more effectively and efficiently provide a security presence in order to maintain and preserve the district's facilities and other assets. Mr. Milano noted that this is essentially the function of the security team. He commented that in addition to their manned presence, we have automatic burglar alarm systems in all the buildings. He advised that to more efficiently cover the fields and the premises during known increased times when incidents occur, a three post approach is used. This strategy divides the district into three definitive areas. These posts are covered by regular time manpower and eliminate the stationary overtime posts. Dr. McDonald shared that this procedure was implemented after the last homecoming, on October 28th. Mr. Milano remarked that we now use wireless devices to access our cameras systems to watch certain areas of the district remotely. Additionally, we established a pool list of district security personnel that come through the ranks of our day employees, that can fill in when vacancies occur on the regular patrol. Mr. Milano stressed that there still may be a need for additional hours when individuals are out on vacation or sickness.

With regard to managing and tracking patrol activity, the goal is to ensure an optimum patrol presence is documented and have the ability to adjust it when necessary. Mr. Milano noted that effective immediately, swipe card readers are being used to log the patrol activities at the building level. He explained that while the patrols are on their posts, they have a set schedule of locations within the buildings that the security aides are to swipe and that creates a digital log of the event to verify and confirm the patrol assignments. Dr. McDonald asked if these were areas where cameras are available. Mr. Milano responded that the majority of the areas do have cameras and this will provide a picture image of their employee ID next to their documented swipe. Additionally, Zonar devices have been installed on the eight security vehicles and are awaiting their activation. He feels these devices are useful tools in being able to determine the security aides time on task. Mr. Pastore remarked that Zonar will be providing training to manage these devices. Mr. Pappas asked if all of our vehicles will have this device. Mr. Milano answered just the security vehicles for right now. Mr. Moran wanted to know, from Monday to Friday, how many security personnel are driving around the district. Mr. Milano said it varies from day to day. Another plan for managing and tracking patrol activity is the district wide camera system which should allow us to see more of the activities of the security patrol. Mr. Milano noted that at the facilities office there is a command center that has access to the cameras.

Relating to the improvement and refreshment of the security fleet, the goal is to provide an exemplary, uniform patrol vehicle presentation so that the public has a sense of our pride in the way we present our security. Mr. Milano reported that we have started to refurbish some of the vehicles. He commented that the new color for all security vehicles will be white to present a uniform presentation.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 8:30 PM to discuss confidential school security issues.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

The Board reconvened in public at 8:45 PM.

Upon return from Executive Session, the following questions were asked:

Mr. Pappas wanted to know who would be monitoring the swipe card logs and when. Mr. Milano responded that the report will be generated weekly by the Tech Department which we will then compare to the hand written logs. With regards to the refurbishing of the vehicles, Mr. Pappas agreed that we need to clean up the cars so that they are not an embarrassment to the district. Additionally, he asked if accidents involving these vehicles are reported. Mr. Milano stated that a vehicle daily check list has been implemented and reviewed on a monthly basis. He noted that any incident involving a vehicle should be reported immediately. He feels this has been occurring. There was a discussion on this issue. Mr. Pappas felt an inspection sheet should be presented at the beginning of each tour to insure accountability for any vehicle damage. Mr. Milano responded that it is not difficult to track which vehicle each employee is using since all of drivers are assigned a specific vehicle to use. When we have a multi-driver vehicle such as the dump truck, we ask each change of driver to indicate on the inspection sheet, the time he took the vehicle and the mileage. Mr. Pappas remarked he hopes this plan works because a lot of money is invested in these vehicles. Mr. Regan commented that he felt Mr. Milano was heading in the right direction. Ms. Marengi thanked Mr. Milano for his presentation.

Dr. McDonald reported that there will be a presentation of the district's comprehensive security plan at the next Board Meeting which is the October 22nd Planning Session.

As a follow up, Dr. McDonald reported that the district had applied for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Grant through the State Education Department. She noted that the staff had prepared the appropriate paperwork and it was on time but we were not awarded the grant. She commented that we still get the half-day UPK Grant and that will continue.

a. Presentation: Regents Results: Presentation by Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent For Instruction

Ms. Rifkin provided a power point presentation of Part II of the student performance summary of the secondary grade levels. She gave a background review of the Common Core (CC) implementation. She noted that in 2013/14, the CC Algebra Regents was administered for the first time but the students also took the Integrated Algebra Regents and they were able to use the higher grade on their transcript. This year that option is no longer available for the Algebra Regents but will still be in place for the Geometry Regents. In 2015/16, we have the same situation for Trigonometry Regents but Algebra and Geometry will be CC and by 2016/17 all math courses will be CC. In English, students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2013/14 school year may meet the requirements for graduation by taking either the CC English Regents or the Regents Comprehensive Exam in English. Ms. Rifkin explained that in 2013/14, we did not administer the CC English Regents. This year, the students don't have to take the CC English Regents but next year our students will have to. Ms. Rifkin prepared charts for Regents Passing Rates and Mastery for each subject which she discussed. She summarized as follows:

- For the English Regents, our passing rate improved from last year and is slightly higher than the county average with the Mastery rate below the county average.
- For Integrated Algebra, the passing rate exceeded the county average, and mastery was at county average. Passing rates for all subgroups were consistent with county averages.
- For Common Core Algebra, the passing rate was at the county average, with subgroups performing at County average as well.
- For Geometry, the passing rate exceeded the county average, mastery was below county average.
- For Algebra 2/Trigonometry, the passing rate exceeded the county average, mastery was below county average.
- For Earth Science, the passing rate remained consistent from previous year and was slightly below the county and the special education subgroup.
- For Living Environment, the passing rate for the district increased by 1% from the previous year and was 5% above the county, and the special education population was above the county average.
- For Chemistry, the passing rate increased by 2% for the district from the previous year while Mastery increased by 6% and the percentage of students taking Chemistry has continued to rise reaching 73% in 2014 (5% higher than the county average and 13% above the 2009/10 participation for Levittown.
- For Physics, the passing rate decreased by 4% for the district from the previous year while Mastery increased by 2%; however, there was a 20% increase in the number of students taking Physics.
- For Global History, the passing and mastery rates were well above the Nassau County average. Classified students performed above the county average but declined over the last several years.
- For US History, the passing and mastery rates were well above the Nassau County average. Classified students performed above the county average but declined over the last several years.

Ms. Rifkin talked about a plan of action for each of the discussed subjects. She thanked the Curriculum Associates for doing a great job and helping to move their departments forward in the right direction.

In discussing A.P. Exams, Ms. Rifkin noted that the statistic that we are very proud of is the number of students we are exposing to the A.P. curriculum which prepares them for college. She reported that our enrollment is down this year, yet we have a much higher percentage of students taking A.P. classes. Ms. Rifkin reported that our diploma rate is steady while the Regents diploma rate increased by 1% and our Advanced Regents diploma rate dropped by 2%. A list of notable colleges our students were accepted to was provided.

Ms. Rifkin shared information she had obtained regarding the implications of opt-out which concerns our district since we have a significant population that opt-out. She noted that a school will not be at risk of being classified a focus/priority school due to its opt-out population. However, if we don't make yearly progress (AYP) for three years due to our participation rate, we will be designated as a Local Assistance Plan (LAP) school. This means that we have to create a plan for improvement and post it on our website. Additionally, we cannot be a Rewards School and if we show a consistent pattern, the State can opt to do an audit of the school district to make sure we are not promoting opt-outs.

Dr. McDonald asked Ms. Rifkin to explain what is involved in an LAP. She commented that Gardiners Avenue School was designated as a LAP School. It was identified as this because of the gap between how all students performed and how the Special Education subgroup performed. She noted that a substantial plan would be submitted to the State after it is approved by the Board. Ms. Rifkin mentioned that at a meeting she attended she heard disturbing comments by some school officials stating that they will not classify their students and therefore will not have a gap. She advised that the LAP involves a lot of work and that the State does not even look at it. It just has to be posted on our website. Dr. McDonald stated that it is based on data from two years ago. Ms. Rifkin commented that since it is based on 2012/13 data, it is possible that we may have already closed the gap but we still have to put the data in place.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard

a. Regarding video streaming

Ms. Rhatigan announced that a video plan was reviewed. She reported that this plan involved one camera mounted at 360 ° which would focus on the Board of Education, a mixer and microphones included and it would be video streamed through our website in real time. We would also need a special Dell computer configured with video cards and some sound boards. Ms. Rhatigan stated that the total cost would be \$10,024.

Mr. Pappas was happy to see that this issue was being revisited. He felt that there were other cheaper ways to accomplish the goal of videotaping. Mr. Regan expressed his opinion that spending money on seeing the Board on camera was excessive. Mr. Ward stated that it was money well spent if older residents who can't come to the meeting can view the meetings online. Ms. Quinones-Smith remarked that she agreed that the senior citizens should be able to see what the district is doing. Ms. Marengi felt that people have access to the minutes which records what transpired at the meetings and therefore the money does not have to be spent. Mr. Cohen, legal advisor, suggested that the Board take time to review this idea. He noted that other districts that have gone to video streaming have had second thoughts, but once the money is spent for the equipment, it is hard to turn back. The Board asked Dr. McDonald to gather more information such as speaking to other districts that use this.

Dr. McDonald reported that while she was at a meeting, she spoke with school officials and they shared that they were not happy with videotaping. Her personal opinion is that it will stifle the community from speaking out because they don't want to be on camera. She remarked that the minutes should be enough along with posting an audio file on the website at no cost. Dr. McDonald advised that these are steps that could be taken along with deeper conversations about video streaming. Ms. Marengi suggested that on the recommendation of legal counsel, we should obtain more information and discuss this again at the November 12th Board meeting.

b. Regarding unfunded mandates

Dr. McDonald noted that this item would be discussed at the October 22nd Board meeting.

c. Regarding busing

Dr. McDonald mentioned that a letter was sent home with additional information that was requested for the proper wording of a petition for a busing issue.

d. Regarding state assessment scores

Dr. McDonald read the letter that was sent home which addressed the outcome the teachers are hoping to derive from the test results. She noted that assessment scores are one of multiple measures used to drive instruction and place students appropriately and the results are looked at from multiple perspectives.

3. Follow-up to Board Questions

a. LAP, LAMP and Driver's Ed Program

Mr. Ward questioned how the revenue from the LAP and LAMP programs was used. He noted that the money from these programs was supposed to be used to renovate the elementary cafeteria/all purpose rooms, instead it is in the General Fund. He asked how to get these monies back for renovations. Mr. Pastore stated that if the Board directs him during the next budget cycle to use this money for Capital Projects, he would budget a transfer to Capital of the projected revenue. Mr. Pastore explained in detail the process to be used. Mr. Pappas remarked that the Board had consented to revamp the cafeterias several years ago and was told it was legal. Dr. McDonald shared that the money was not expensed for this purpose last year, it was spent on other items but there is still money left in the code. She noted that she would look into this directive.

b. Citizens Advisory Committee for Budget

Dr. McDonald asked for Board comments on this topic. The Board decided to post notices in the local newspapers and on our website to advertise for this committee. A target number of a minimum of ten members was agreed upon. The District Clerk was directed to move forward on this.

c. Property Tax Freeze Credit

Mr. Pastore explained that as part of the 2014/15 state budget, New York lawmakers enacted a temporary tax “freeze.” For the subsequent two years, the state will reimburse property tax increases paid by homeowners to school districts that stay within their 2% tax levy growth caps. Mr. Pastore shared that the district has certified that we have met the tax cap requirement. In general, the amount of refunded money the taxpayers should receive, is the difference between their 2014 tax bill and their 2013 tax bill. He noted there are some exceptions such as home improvements that increase the property value. Mr. Pastore explained that in the second year of the rebate program, the district must develop a state approved government efficiency plan. This plan must identify how school districts plan to achieve savings of at least 1% of the 2014/15 tax levies for three straight years – beginning with the 2016/17 school year. This can be done by sharing services, entering into cooperative agreements or merging with other districts. He noted that we have already put practices in place to save the district money but they were started before this efficiency plan, and we may not be able to carry them into the plan and get credit for them. Mr. Cohen noted that the state is trying to put incentives in place for sharing services. Mr. Pastore advised that the rules that dictate what the efficiencies are have not been established yet. He stated that as he gathers more information on this issue, he will keep the Board informed.

C. Board of Education**1. Comments and Reports**

Mr. Regan commended the high school principals for great homecomings. He noted he thoroughly enjoyed attending them.

Ms. Marengi spoke about an article that appeared in Newsday regarding a Down Syndrome student, D.J. Stevens, who is an honorary member of the football team. Mr. Stevens is team/bench manager who helps ensure practices and games run smoothly every step of the way. Ms. Marengi shared that at every football game she attends, Mr. Stevens is there lively rooting for the team. She remarked it is wonderful to see.

Mr. Pappas commented on the Autism Awareness Walk dedicated to a senior, Brendan Gallagher. He remarked that it was well attended and it was great to see such school spirit.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

3. Student Liaisons

Ms. Shin, spoke about how MacArthur is very involved in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She noted that students and faculty show their support by wearing pink every Friday. She reported that to date, 700 shirts were sold with the proceeds going for research. The Student Council and National Honor Society have been working in preparation for Pink Out which is a fundraising event during a night football game which brings everyone together for a good cause. Additionally, the volleyball team has been doing “Dig Pink”, to raise money for breast cancer.

Mr. Lumetta, alternate Student Liaison for Division, reported that Homecoming was a huge success, especially since we won the football game. He congratulated the King and Queen of Homecoming. He mentioned that the Marching Band placed second at their first competition and was preparing for the state finals. Mr. Lumetta reported that a Division Avenue student wrote a winning play in the New York State Theater Education Association Writing Contest. The school has been preparing for its Thanksgiving Food Drive.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 14-15-113

MOTION: "WHEREAS, all claims, warrants and charges against the School District have been reviewed by the Claims Auditor and have been certified by the Claims Auditor for payment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the September 2014 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

2. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 14-15-114

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the following reports from the Business Office.

- Appropriation, Revenue, Trial Balance – For the month ending August 31, 2014
- Claims Auditors Report – Prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano and Zureck and Company, P.C. for the month ending September 30, 2014

NOTE: Mr. Pappas commended Mr. Pastore on a great job with the Claims Audit Report. He did a quick look back and noted that we had reduced the dollar amount on the confirming purchase orders by 99%.

- Treasurer's Report – For the month ending August 31, 2014

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

3. Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION # 14-15-115

MOTION: "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the attached budget transfers have been prepared and recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance,

<u>Code from</u>	<u>Code to</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A55104210 Insurance Code	A55404000 Contracted Buses	\$15,000
A55105710 Fuel Buses	A55404000 Contracted Buses	\$70,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached budget transfers."

NOTE: Mr. Pappas commented that at the last meeting he had requested more detail on budget transfers. He noted that there is still not enough information. Mr. Pappas had questions on the insurance code. Mr. Pastore explained that most of the code was expended because the NYSIR bill is paid in full in July for the entire year. Mr. Pastore remarked that most of the money for additional contracted buses is for additional runs. He clarified that in combining some bus runs, some private school students were getting to school late. He noted that we do not always know the mix of the children for private and parochial schools or the number of students involved. He commented that he would provide detailed information in the Friday report.

Mr. Pappas had asked a question at the last meeting about how much was spent last year on substitute teachers. He remarked that the numbers went up and he wanted to know why. Ms. Marengi stated that staff development was increased which caused an increase in the number of substitutes needed. Additionally, Dr. McDonald remarked that the daily sub rate was increased.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

4. End-of-Year Appropriation and Revenue Reports

RESOLUTION # 14-15-116

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached End-of-Year Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the 2013-2014 school year."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

5. Contract with MyHealthyThing

RESOLUTION # 14-15-117

MOTION: “Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is hereby RESOLVED, that the attached Modification and Extension Agreement for food services provided by MyHealthyThing through the 2014-2015 school year is hereby approved and the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to execute same on behalf of the District.”

NOTE: Mr. Pappas took issue with the fact that the contract was renewed without Board adoption until October. Additionally, a comparison list of prices was not included. He felt this all should have occurred in August. Mr. Ward reported that the prices are pretty much along the lines of last year. Mr. Howard agreed that the price points are very similar. Mr. Pappas stated that next year he would like to see the contract approved, the schedule attached and a price comparison, prior to the vendor starting.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mike Pappas
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

6. Transportation Contract BOCES

RESOLUTION # 14-15-118

MOTION: "RESOLVED that pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached transportation contract with Nassau BOCES for the 2014-2015 school year outdoor trips at a cost of \$23,450.35 ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the attached contract."

NOTE: Mr. Pappas reported that dates were missing on the signature pages of some documents and the sending school number.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

7. GC Tech Tuition Contracts

RESOLUTION # 14-15-119

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, approve the attached tuition contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school districts for the purpose of Levittown providing specialized educational services at the GC Tech program to children residing in those districts:

- East Meadow School District
- Hicksville School District
- Massapequa School District
- Plainedge School District
- Wantagh School District

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contracts."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

8. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 14-15-120

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following vendors to provide special education services for the 2014-15 school year.

- Achieve Beyond
- Bluesea Educational Consultants, Inc.
- Education, Inc.
- Home Care for Children, Inc.
- Island Home Care Agency, Inc.
- Islip Tutoring Service, Inc.
- Anne Kearney CCC, SLP, LSLs, CERT, AVT
- Positive Behavior Support Consulting and Psychological Resources, PC
- Nirmala Mitra, MD
- Karin E. Burkhard, MD
- Marion K. Solomon & Assoc., Inc.
- Metro Therapy, Inc.
- Mill Neck Services
- New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.
- St. James Tutoring
- Children's Hearing Institute
- Top Grade

- Variety Child Learning Center
- All About Kids/Mid Island Therapy
- Tutoring Service of Long Island
- North Shore Psychological & Educational Assessments
- A7
- Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center, Inc.
- Behavioral Intervention Psychological Services, PC
- Helping Hands Children Services
- Brookville Center for Children’s Services
- Center for Developmental Disabilities, Inc.
- Hagedorn Little Village School, Jack Joel Center for Special Children
- Maryhaven Center of Hope
- Woods Services
- School for Language and Communication
- Creative Tutoring, Inc.
- A Step Ahead Therapy
- Corinthian Therapy Management Services, Inc.
- Comprehensive Consultation Psychological Services
- Nassau Suffolk Services for Autistic
- Stephen Michael Perret, MD

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contracts.”

NOTE: Mr. Ward asked for a comparison sheet for the different vendors used so he could compare services. He noted that some vendors charge more money for the same services. He wanted to know why we pay more for some vendors. Dr. McDonald explained that some children have a comfort level with a particular vendor whose price changes over time. In the opinion of the CSE, it is better to continue with this specialist. Therefore, we will use this vendor even if they charge more money. Dr. McDonald stated we always try to use the specialist with the lowest price but sometimes for the betterment of the child we continue to use that vendor. She noted that we tailor the appropriate needs to the appropriate child. Mr. Ward commented that he agreed with this position but wanted to know why we don’t try to negotiate with the higher priced specialists. Dr. McDonald advised that we do try to do this.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept with thanks the following gifts:

- a. a Lenovo ThinkPad T440s donated by the Yearbook Club for use in creating and developing MacArthur's annual yearbook;
- b. check in the amount of \$1,054.60 donated to Northside Elementary School by Ahold Financial Services, P O Box 7200. Carlisle PA 17013 as part of the A+ School Rewards program from Stop & Shop;
- b. checks for the following schools in the indicated amounts, donated by Target Take Charge of Education, P.O. Box 59214, Minneapolis, MN 55459-0214:

Abbey Lane	\$573.91	East Broadway	\$1,302.22
Gardiners Avenue	\$902.82	Lee Road	\$956.00
Northside	\$781.94	Summit Lane	\$645.27
Salk	\$510.71	Wisdom Lane	\$326.88
Division Avenue	\$592.06	MacArthur	\$2,477.41"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

NOTE: Mr. Marengi thanked everyone for their generous donations.

10. Obsolete Equipment

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the following lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

<u>School/Building</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
Salk	1 Savin Copier	10-1-14
Wisdom Lane	3 televisions	9-11-14"
	3 VHS player/recorders	
	3 DVD player/recorders	
	1 DVD/VHS combo	
	1 typewriter	
	1 LOGITECH speaker	

NOTE: Mr. Ward thanked Dr. McDonald for a providing a complete report on the required forms.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

11. Obsolete Computer Equipment

RESOLUTION # 14-15-123

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the computer equipment on the following lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

<u>School / Building</u>	<u>No of Items</u>	<u>Type of Items</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
Summit Lane	1	Printer	9/19/14
LMEC	9	Printers, PC, Projectors	9/15/14
Abbey Lane	1	Printer	8/4/14
Salk MS	1	Printer	9/25/14"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

12. Contracts with Lifetouch Studios

RESOLUTION # 14-15-124

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts with Lifetouch National School Studios/Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch to serve as school photographer for General Douglas MacArthur High School and Division Avenue High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the contracts."

NOTE: Mr. Ward asked why the Board has to approve the photographers for the high school and not for the elementary schools. Dr. McDonald reported that everything that is not high school is run by the PTA's.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

13. Medical Evaluation of an Employee

RESOLUTION # 14-15-125

MOTION: "WHEREAS, Section 913 of the Education Law provides the Board of Education with the ability to require employees to undergo an examination in the interest of protecting the health and welfare of students; and,

WHEREAS the performance of an employee brings these issues into question;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 913 of the Education Law of the State of New York, that said employee is, hereby, directed to undergo an examination by a physician or physicians to be determined."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi,
EXCUSED:	Ed Powers

16. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 14-15-126

MOTION: "That the Levittown Board of Education approve the following schedules:

- | | | |
|------|----------------|---|
| 1001 | 2014-GG- No. 5 | Resignation/Termination - Certified Personnel |
| 1002 | 2014-H-No. 5 | Resignation/Termination-Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1003 | 2014-H-No. 5a | Appointments- Salary Change - Certified Personnel |
| 1004 | 2014-H-No. 5g | Designation, Coaches |
| 1005 | 2014-H-No. 5h | Appointments – Extra Curricular |
| 1006 | 2014-HH-No. 5 | Appointments, Non-Instructional |
| 1007 | 2014-JJ-No. 1 | Permanent Status, Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1008 | 2014-K-No. 4 | Leave of Absence – Certified Personnel |
| 1009 | 2014-O-No. 4 | Students with Disabilities |

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan, Trustee
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Pappas, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marenghi,
EXCUSED:	James Moran

POLICIES (READ ONLY)a. Revision Policy # 3330 Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security - second read

Ms. Rhatigan noted that there were no changes made to the policy since the first read. She mentioned that she received correspondence from a resident that might need to be addressed regarding this policy. If any changes are necessary they will be brought to the Board's attention before the final read. Mr. Cohen advised that he was working on a form rider to the contracts with vendors who have access to the sensitive information.

b. Revision Policy # 7210 Student Evaluation, Promotion and Placement - first read

Ms. Rifkin reported that we originally had a policy for student evaluation but based on new education law we had to incorporate student evaluation, promotion and placement into one policy. She went over some of the changes: the new law limits the use of state assessments with regard to promotion and placement; multiple measures have to be used; the district is prohibited from putting ELA and Math scores on permanent records of students; and we are required to include a statement on parent reports that includes test results that the assessments will not be on the permanent records. Dr. McDonald stated this codifies what we do and it complies with the law.

c. Policy # 7670 - Due Process Complaints: Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers -first read

Ms. Rhatigan stated that the this policy was reviewed by the Director of Special Education and is being looked at by our attorneys. She remarked that the policy is about how due process complaints and appointments of Impartial Hearing Officers are handled. She noted that the policy has been streamlined to delete what was unnecessary.

DISCUSSION ONLYa. All district contracts posted on the website

Dr. McDonald asked if the Board wanted to bring this item forward. Mr. Pappas stated that Nassau County posts all the contracts they enter into online. Additionally, they are all available through Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). He felt there was no better transparency than having our contract on our website. Mr. Ward agreed that this was a good idea. Mr. Pastore explained that it is hard to put BOCES contracts online since you need access to obtain the contracts. Mr. Cohen noted that for some of the shared services you do not have a contract. You would have to contact BOCES for a copy and repost them online. He felt this is the wave of the future under the Parents Bill of Rights since you will have to post those contracts with vendors that have access to student information. Dr. McDonald shared that this process will require a tremendous amount of staff time. She went on to explain what it would involve. Dr. McDonald felt that educating the community would be necessary in order for them to understand our bidding and quoting requirements. Ms. Marengi commented that we should consider the amount of time vs. the benefit it has. Mr. Pappas pointed out that the contracts could be posted as they get approved. He mentioned that they are already posted on our Minute Traq System. Dr. McDonald explained that the

documents do not transfer easily and many people are involved the process. The Board discussed this issue, and the consensus was to move forward.

b. Audit Committee

Mr. Pappas brought to the Board's attention that this committee should have three members with the Board President listed as an ex officio member and not an alternate. He stated that an ex officio is a nonvoting member. Mr. Cohen explained that if the committee had four voting members, that would be considered a quorum and be held to the Open Meetings Law requirements. Mr. Cohen was asked if we needed to change the resolution. He responded that at the next meeting you could have a corrective resolution. After a discussion, Mr. Pappas stated that he was withdrawing from the Audit Committee.

MOTION: "That the Board go into Executive Session at 10:35 PM **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss a personnel matter"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mr. Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan, Trustee
AYES:	Ward, Powers, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	James Moran

NOTE: The Board returned to public session at 10:55 PM.

X. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mr. Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan, Trustee
AYES:	Ward, Powers, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	James Moran

The Board adjourned the public meeting at 11:00 PM.

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

NOTE: Tapes of the meeting are available for review at the Levittown Library

PUBLIC BE HEARD

Jane Finkelstein 848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Finkelstein objected to the word rigor that was used in the Regents Results Presentation given at the beginning of the meeting. She feels this word means strictness, severity, harshness, and stiffness which in her opinion is not a word to be used to bring back the love of learning and creativity in the classroom.

Ms. Finkelstein noted that parents of 11th graders received letters in September stating that their children were in need of academic intervention services based on 8th grade assessments. She wanted to know what happened between the years of 8th – 11th grade. She remarked that 8th grade tests three years ago were pre college and career readiness.

Additionally, Ms. Finkelstein wanted to know what the school district's involvement is with the speed zone cameras. She asked for clarification. Ms. Finkelstein wanted the Board to know that there would be an informational meeting for residents regarding school speed zones at the Levittown Library on November 20th.

RESPONSE:

Regarding the speed cameras, Dr. McDonald commented that we were not consulted in anyway. Ms. Marengi shared her thoughts on the word rigor. She said she loves the word rigor. To her, it means using higher order thinking skills which causes the students to think, create and apply knowledge. She feels this is walking the children in the right direction.

